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U.S. Cross-Border Communications National Initiatives

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Western Border Interoperability Working Group

Past National Workshops

Niagara Falls, NY – May 2009

Three “key thematic issues” emerged

- Lack of adequate governance structures
- Outdated legal frameworks and regulatory processes
- Cultural barriers to collaboration

Windsor, ON – September 2010

Ten “Top Priorities” identified



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Past National Workshops (cont.)

Windsor, ON – September 2010

Ten “Top Priorities” identified

- Creation of a Canadian/American communications interoperability coordinating body;
- Creation of a cross-border communications working group;
- Development of an interoperability mandate within both governments;
- Formal identification of cross-border interoperability channels available border-wide through the creation of a working group;
- Address legal hindrances that prohibit sharing of radio frequencies, personnel, and resources from working across state, province, and national borders;
- Creation of a stakeholder map and service inventory;
- Appointment of a cross-border communications interoperability coordinator from each province and at the federal level equivalent to the Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWIC) in the U.S.;
- Identification and engagement of cross-border champions;
- Development of an information-sharing inventory; and
- Draft model MOU for routine cross-border use of licensed spectrum



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Beyond the Border Initiative

Beyond the Border (BTB): A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness – February 2011

- Communications Interoperability Working Group
 - Established in 2012 to coordinate action on cross-border public safety communications issues
 - Co-chaired by Public Safety Canada and DHS OEC
 - Secretariat function with OEC since November 1st
 - Developed a Five-Year Work Plan – October 2012
 - Action items for BTB goals in Item 32B
 - Annex with timelines and validation metrics – annual evaluation
 - Coordination on spectrum issues
 - Industry Canada and FCC participation has been key



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CIWG Goals

CANUS Communications Interoperability Working Group

- Goal 1.** Coordinate national-level emergency communications plans and strategies
- Goal 2.** Identify future trends and technologies related to communications interoperability
- Goal 3.** Promote the use of standards in emergency communications
- Goal 4.** Promote governance models and structure
- Goal 5.** Share best practices and lessons learned
- Goal 6.** Promote interoperability between the Canadian Multi-Agency Situational Awareness System (MASAS) and the United States Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and complement other Emergency Management Situational Awareness System(s) to enable sharing of alert, warning, and incident information to improve response coordination to bi-national disasters
- Goal 7.** Harmonize Canadian and U.S. public safety broadband networks in the 700 megahertz (MHz) spectrum to enable cross-border communications in these bands, and establish mechanisms/protocols to avoid interference issues
- Goal 8.** Establish Post Beyond the Border Initiative Transition Activities



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CIWG Work Plan

CANUS Communications Interoperability Working Group

- Year 1 Work Plan (2012/2013)
 - Demonstrate Interoperability between MASAS and IPAWS
 - Develop Communications Interoperability Map
 - Develop Information Exchange Protocol for Emergency Management
- Accomplishments To-Date
 - Established a CIWG Web Presence (Portal)
 - Conducted CAUSE II Exercise
 - Began 18-month Cross-Border Communications Interoperability Data Gathering Effort



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CIWG Work Plan (cont.)

CANUS Communications Interoperability Working Group

- Cross-Border Communications Interoperability Data Gathering
 - List current cross-border interoperability initiatives
 - Include regional and province to state initiatives and agreements to provide a snapshot of interoperability
 - Map identified gaps along the CANUS border with the intent of providing focus for post BTB CANUS interoperability work
- CAUSE II
 - Canada-United States Experiment (CAUSE) Resiliency Exercise Two was successfully held in Maine and New Brunswick in March 2013



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Border Interoperability Demonstration Projects

OEC BIDP Grants: Seven recipients, \$25.5M

- City of Yuma, Arizona
- San Diego Fire-Rescue, California
- County of Washington, Maine
- Wayne County, Michigan
- Flathead County, Montana
- Lake County, Ohio
- City of McAllen, Texas



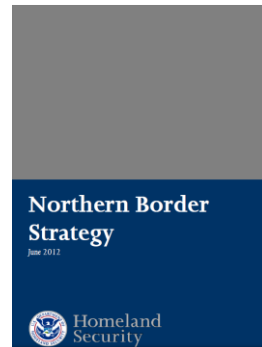
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DHS Northern Border Strategy – June 2012

“We envision a U.S.-Canada border where DHS entities, our U.S. Federal, state, local, and tribal partners, and our Canadian counterparts collaborate to deter and prevent terrorism and transnational threats ... We will employ interoperable communications in order to foster integrated and unified domain awareness and joint operational and investigative capacity among all agencies working along and across the border.”

- emphasis added



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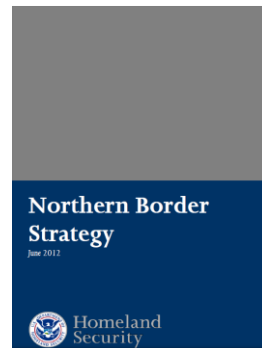
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DHS Northern Border Strategy (cont.)

Goal 1: Deter and Prevent Terrorism, Smuggling, Trafficking, and Illegal Immigration

- **Objective 1.2** - Enhance domain awareness and interoperability to conduct joint operations

To enhance domain awareness and interoperability, DHS and our domestic and Canadian counterparts must develop and utilize interoperable communications and border monitoring systems, identify opportunities to co-locate personnel and assets, and expand efforts to jointly plan and execute integrated operations and investigations ...



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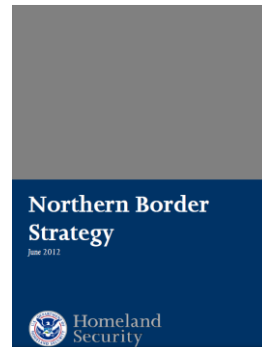
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DHS Northern Border Strategy (cont.)

Goal 3: Ensure Community Safety and Resiliency Before, During, and After Incidents, Including Terrorist Attacks and Natural Disasters

- **Objective 3.4** -Jointly conduct effective disaster response operations

In communities along the northern border, the closest emergency response personnel may be located on the opposite side of the border. Effective response operations involving personnel from multiple jurisdictions require interoperable communications and common incident management doctrine. DHS will continue to support state, local, and provincial efforts to facilitate the cross-border movement and interoperability of first responders in both countries and their ability to conduct coordinated and joint response operations.



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Spectrum Issues

- 1952 CANUS Convention
 - Provides that U.S. and Canadian public safety licensees may operate vehicular mobile units in the other country's territory under certain conditions. The Convention is very specific about the mobile units being "installed in public safety vehicles."
 - FCC is working on Letter of Understanding with intent to provide clarity on handheld portable transceivers
- 700 MHz Narrowband Arrangement
 - Implemented through exchange of letters in May 2013
 - Aligns domestic Canadian and US channel plans
 - Provides for block and zone sharing of channels
 - Aligns interoperability channels



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